You are to name him

Jesus

MATTHEW 1:21

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti, MI
December 21, 2025 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship Key
P: Pastor
A: Assisting Ministers
C: Congregation

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE *"Silver Bells"*

Ethan Meadows, Saxophone

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

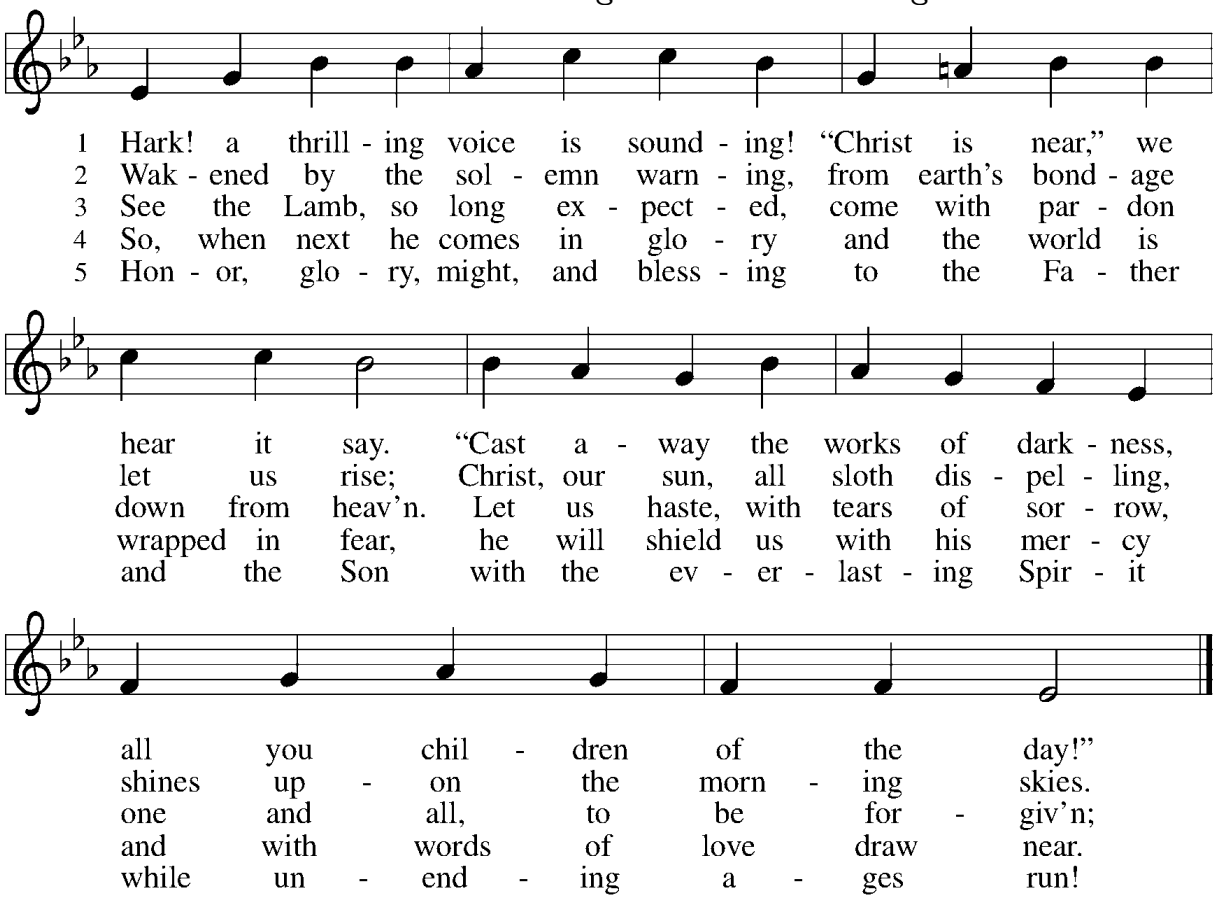
C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 246

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"


1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther
hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it
all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv'n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

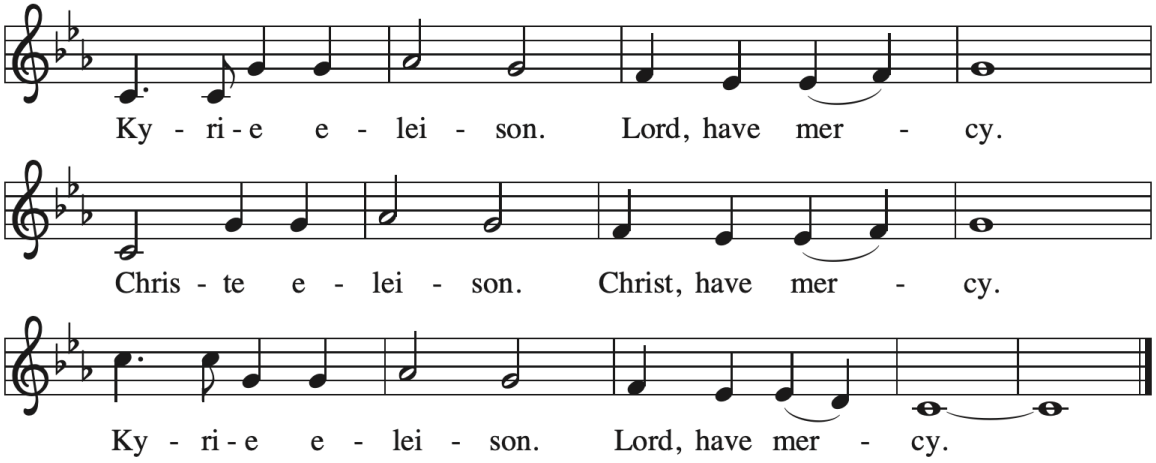
Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: MERTON . William H. Monk, 1823–1889

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

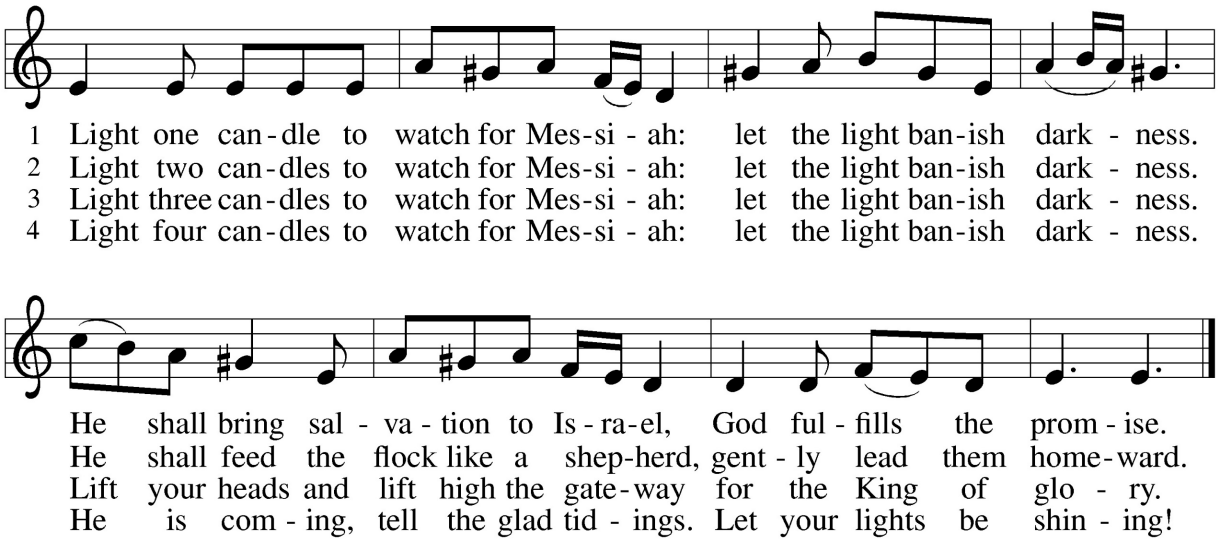


ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

A: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

C: let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN – *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (v.1-4)*


1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark-ness.
He shall bring sal-va-tion to Is-ra-el, God ful-fills the prom-ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent-ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo-ry.
He is com-ing, tell the glad tid-ings. Let your lights be shin-ing!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

A: A reading from Isaiah.

10 The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it
be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will
not put the LORD to the test." 13 Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of
David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God
also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman
is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. 15 He shall eat
curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the
good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good,
the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

A: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

[17] **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
[18] And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
[19] **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

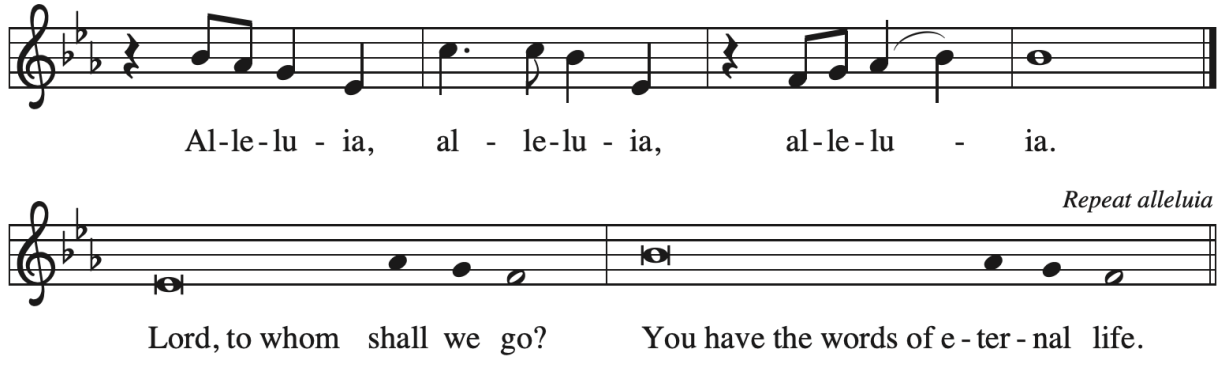
Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

A: A reading from Romans.

[1] Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel
of God, [2] which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy
scriptures, [3] the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David
according to the flesh [4] and was declared to be Son of God with power
according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ
our Lord, [5] through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring
about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his
name, [6] including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
[7] To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

P: The Gospel according to Matthew.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother
Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found
to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous
man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her
quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to
take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy
Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his
people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by
the Lord through the prophet:
23 "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they
shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph
awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her
as his wife 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a
son, and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME — Rev. Joshua Rinas

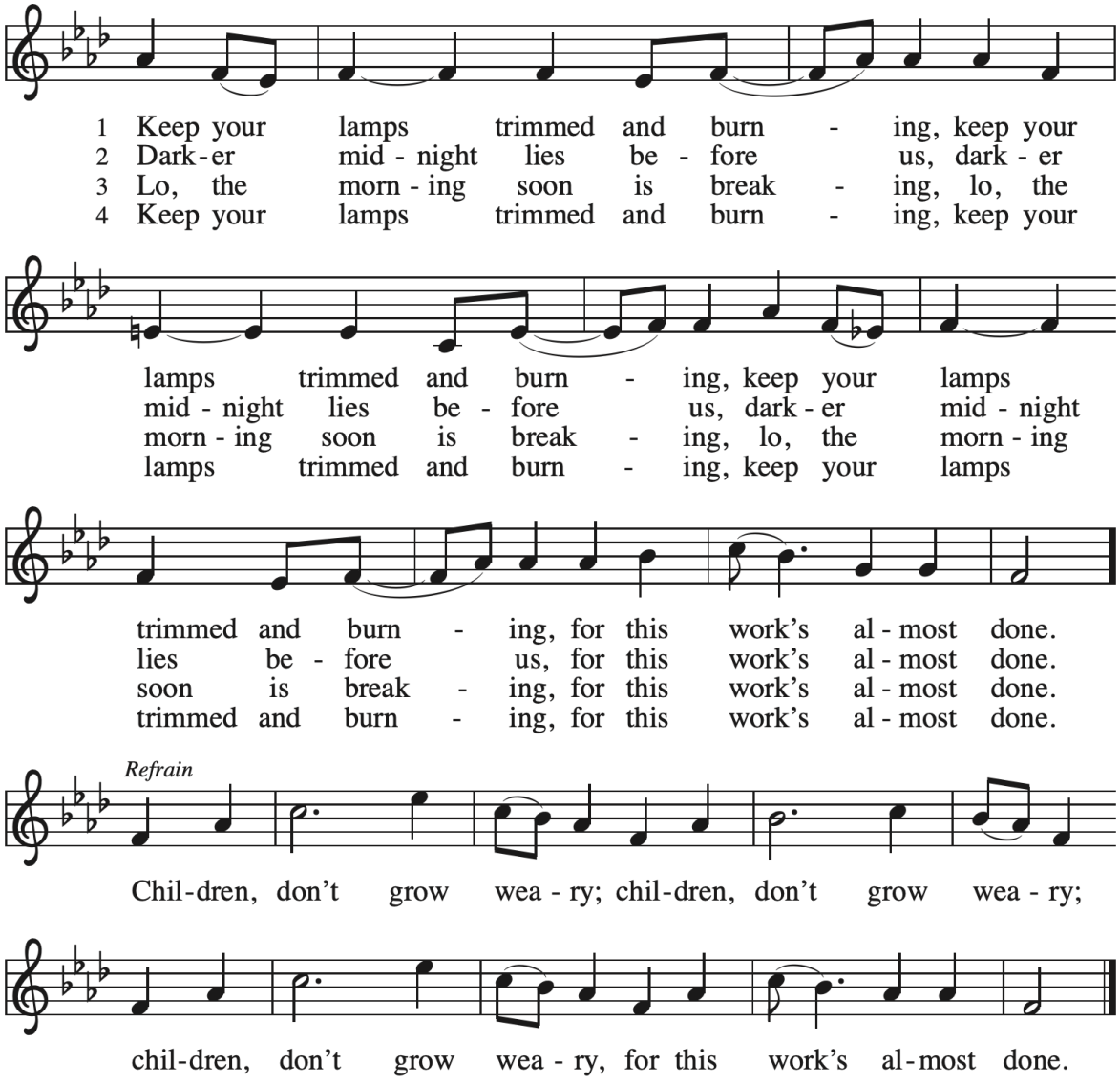
A special message for children.

SERMON — Rev. Joshua Rinas

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 949

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

This song with influence from Mathew 25 is both a gospel song and likely a coded African-American spiritual. The call is to be awake and ready! Maintain focus and hope! Trimming the wick of an oil lamp keeps the flame bright. Its metaphorical meaning is to keep your life clean from sin and let your inner light shine brightly and steadily.

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
Refrain
Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;
chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A: In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill especially John, Bob, Diane, Gary, John, Cora, Ken, Lew, Richard, the family and friends of Patricia and of Bob. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For what else does this congregation pray? Prayers may be said aloud, typed into the live chat box, or silently in your hearts…

Brief Pause for the congregation to respond.

A: God of grace.

C: hear our prayer.

A: We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your in love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

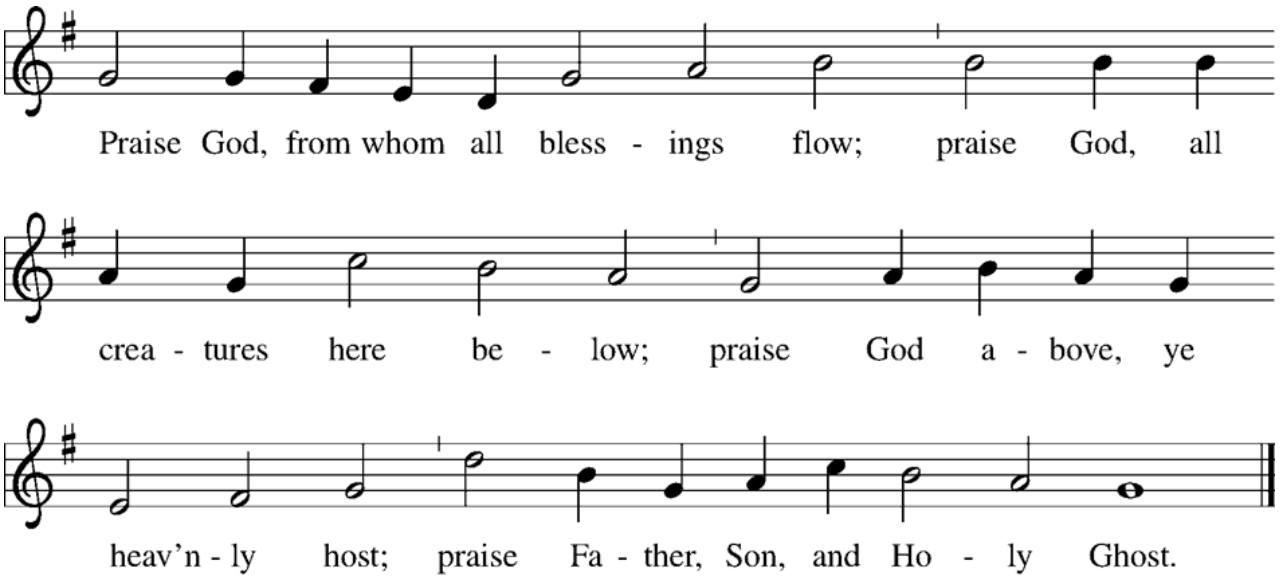
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *"Silent Night"* Youth Choir

OFFERING HYMN – *"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"*


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

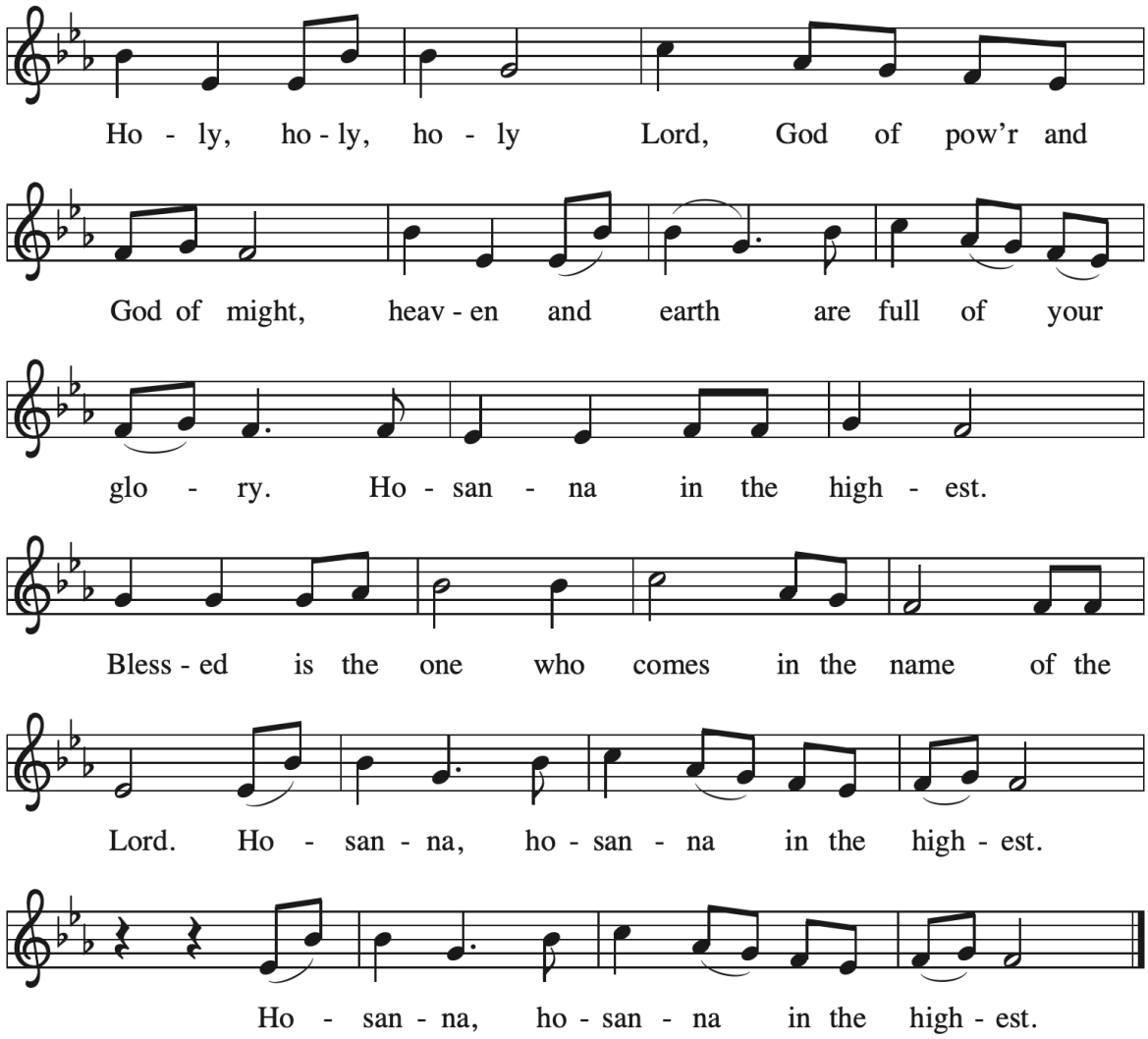
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

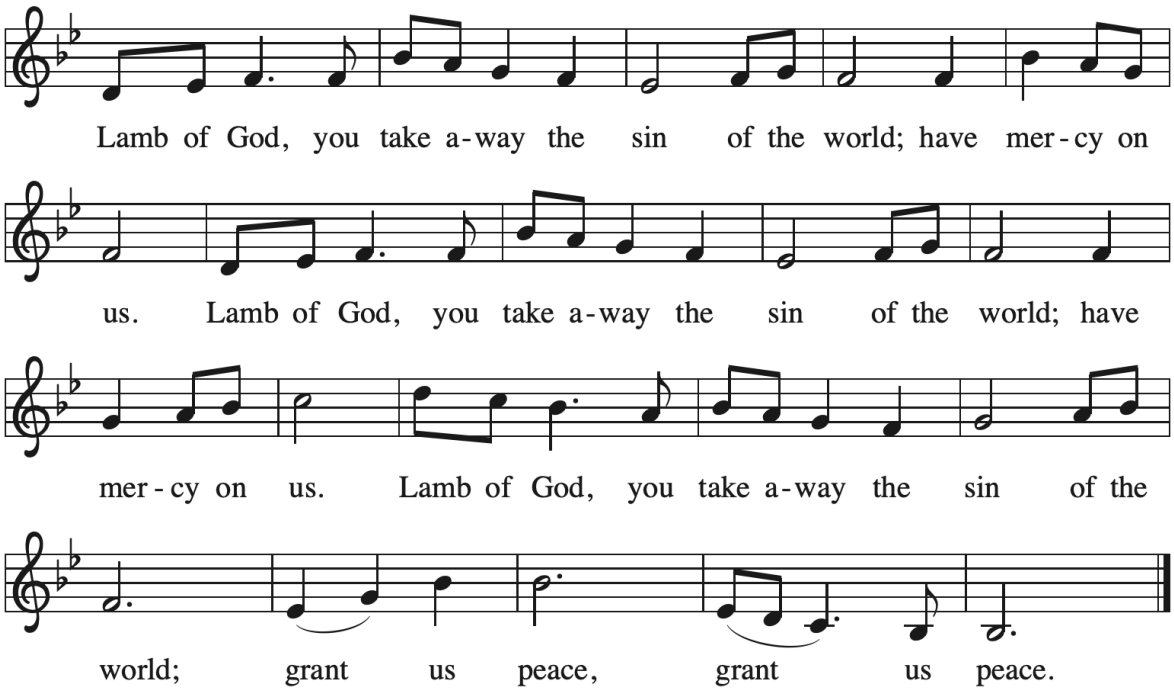
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

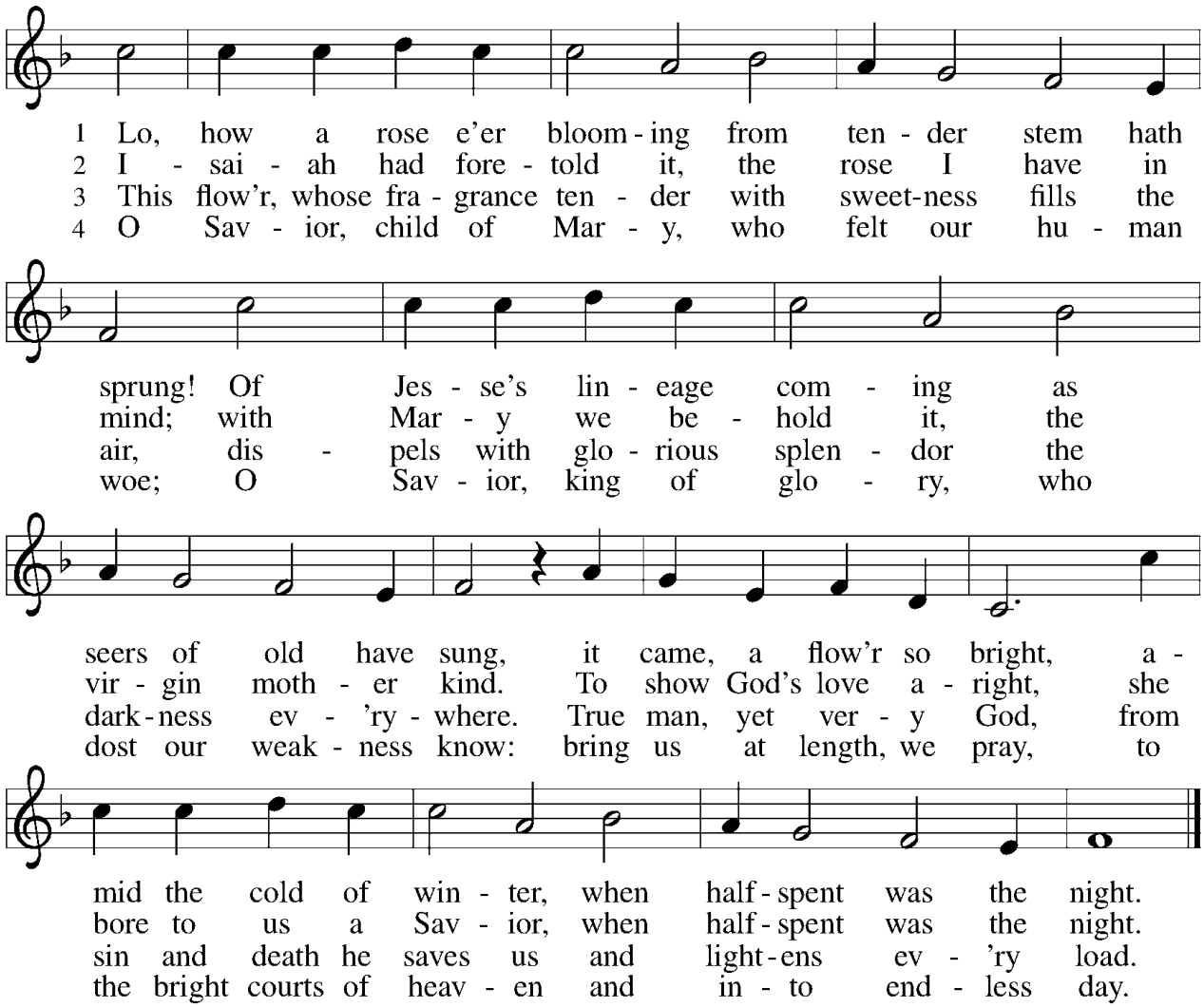
LAMB OF GOD


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN - *"Lo, How a Rose Er' Blooming"*

Led by the Emmanuel Chancel Choir (Please join in singing)


1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

C: God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

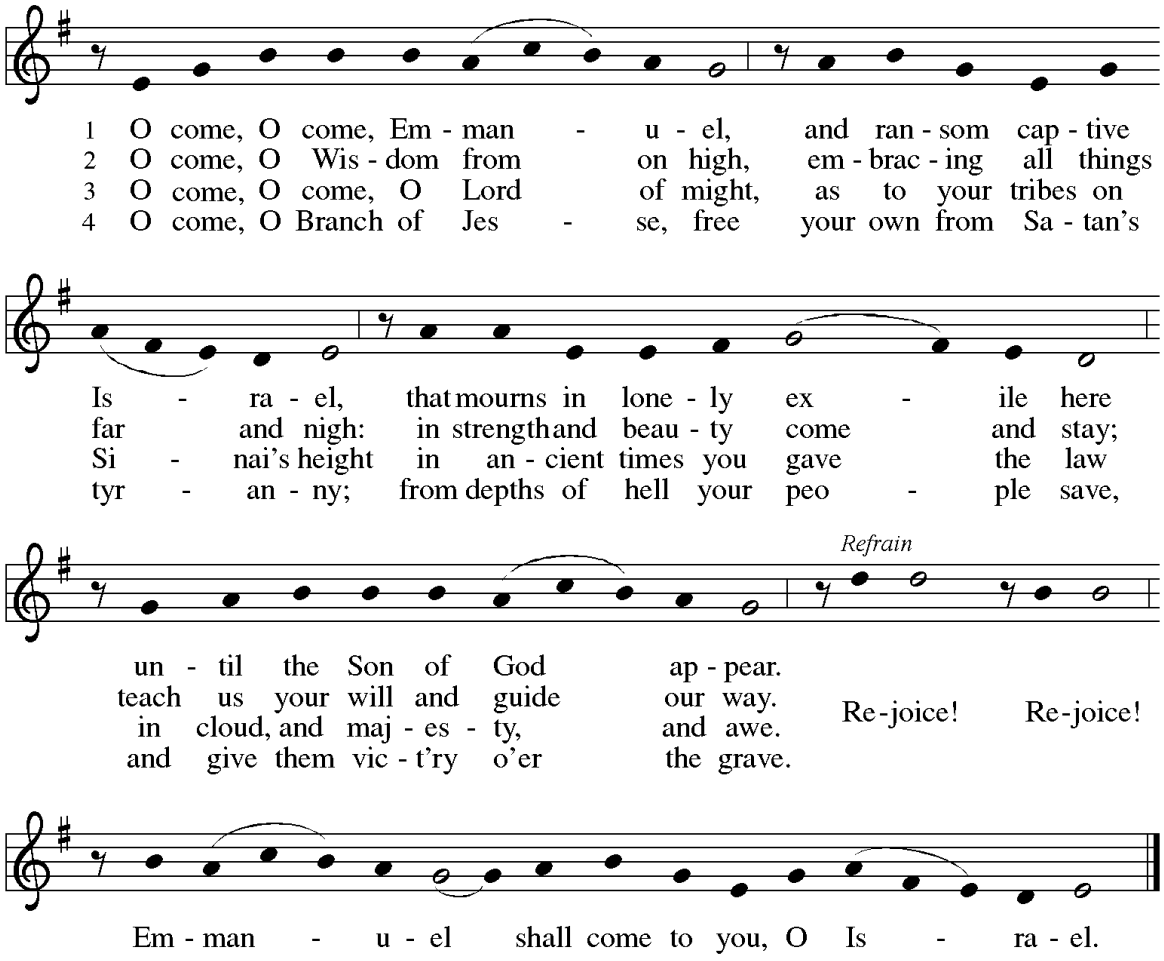
BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 257

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (v.1-4)


1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,
Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! If this is your first time with us, please add your name and information to our Guest book located in the Narthex (Lobby), we would love to connect with you.

*Hearing assistance devices and cushions are available in the back pew. Please help yourself!
*Children's bulletins available, please see an usher.
*Printed copies of the Newsletter are in the magazine holder in the Narthex.
**Christ in Our Home* devotionals (October - December) can be found in the Narthex.
*Hand Sanitizers can be found in the Narthex and hanging at the end of the pews.

Please remember to wear your Name Tag

It's a help for visitors and folks you may not have seen for a while. If you need a new Name tag, please let Jennifer know.

Christmas Eve Services

There will be a Christmas Eve service at 6:00pm and 10:00pm. Poinsettias can be picked up after the 10pm service.

Our At Home Friends, that I'm sure would love a Christmas card.

Cora Hubbard, 23395 Karr Rd., Belleville, Mi 48111
Louise Conklin, 1301 Duncan St., Ypsilanti, Mi. 48198
Lewis Shock, 205 S. Clubview Dr., Ypsilanti, Mi.48197
Kathy Martin, 4 Elm St., Ypsilanti,. Mi. 48197

And a New address;
Charles & Judy Kyle, StoryPoint, 6230 State St., #214, Saline, Mi. 48176

Social Concerns Updates

The Clothes Closet is closed until January 7. No volunteers will be available to process donations, so please refrain from leaving donations until January. Thank you.

The Food Pantry is closed Christmas Eve, December 24, but will be open usual hours New Year's Eve, December 31.

Financial Progress Report –

Attendance Sunday 12/14/25: 62 (cold and sunny)

This past week (Dec 8 – Dec 14) we received income of: $2,064

Approved Budget: $285,719 ***Needed Weekly:*** $5,495

For the month of November we had:

- ***Income:**** $20,595
- ***Expenses:*** $20,534
- ***November Balance:*** $ 61
  - ***Positive Nov balance due to:***
    - Income exceeds expenses.
    - Includes investments negative change in value from 11/1/25 to 11/30/25.
    - Received bequest from the estate of Virginia Basler.
    - Several generous members have donated above their 2025 pledge. Thank you!

Jan 1st through Nov 30th, we had:

- ***Income:**** $292,585
- ***Expenses:*** $255,199
- ***YTD Balance:*** $37,386
  - ***Favorable YTD balance due to:***
    - Investments negative change in value from 11/1/25 to 11/30/25.
    - Bequest from estate of Barb Maes.
    - Bequest from the estate of Virginia Basler.
    - Several generous members have donated above their 2025 pledge. Thank you!

Last year at November 30, 2024 our YTD balance was ($9,096). Thank you for your support.

*Income will not include the change in value of the Ministry Growth Fund investment until after the 15th of the following month.

Ways to Give: Giving can be done online by clicking here. Or mail checks to: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

Paypal: Select payment type "Friends and Family" using emmanuelypsi@gmail.com. Please indicate account (general fund, flowers, memorials, etc.) where it says add message.

Mobile App: Download the Vanco Payments Mobile app for free from Google Play. In the app, select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

- Handbell Choir 8:45am
- Chancel Choir 9:30am
- **Worship 10:00am**
- Coffee Hour 11:00am – 12:00pm
- **COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, December 23

- Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 9:30am

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- **Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm**
- **Christmas Eve Service 10:00pm**

Thursday, December 25 – OFFICE CLOSED - Merry Christmas!

Friday, December 26 – OFFICE CLOSED

- NA Meeting 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Sunday, December 28 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

- Handbell Choir 8:45am
- **Worship 10:00am**
- Coffee Hour 11:00am – 12:00pm

The flowers on the altar today are given in Glory to God.

For those with young children: Emmanuel's "Pray-Ground" is located at the front of the church. We welcome and encourage families with children to use this area; where your children can quietly play with soft toys, books, and do arts and crafts. Please don't worry about noise—worship leaders have microphones!

Prayers requested for: John, Bob, Diane, Gary, John, Cora, Ken, Lew, Richard, the family and friends of Patricia and of Bob.

Assisting Ministers Needed!
Sign up on the sheet outside the office or call the office; Or through sign-up genius. Click here or Scan QR code

Links:
Livestream Worship - https://www.youtube.com/@emmanuelypsi
Giving Online - Online donation
Clothes Closet - ClothesCloset@emmanuelypsi.org
Food Pantry - FoodPantry@emmanuelypsi.org

Serving in Worship:
Interim Pastor..... Rev. Joshua Rinas
Minister of Worship Music..... David Meitzler
Minister of Choral Conducting..... Jamie Gallupe
Assisting Minister..... Makayla Sperle

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You are welcome to connect to our wi-fi network – Emmanuel Guests
Contact us at info@emmanuelypsi.org Visit us at www.EmmanuelYpsi.org
Or call us at 734-482-7121 Or @emmanuelypsi on Facebook